



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Ianniello *et al.*

Serial No. 10/691,975

Filed: Oct. 24, 2003

For: **HIGH-FLOW VOID-MAINTAINING  
MEMBRANE LAMINATES, GRIDS  
AND METHODS**

Examiner: Alexandra **Pechhold**

Art Unit: 3671

Atty Docket No: 29641-836569

Customer No: **32790**

**AMENDMENT, RESPONSE, AND REQUEST FOR  
RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 29, 2005

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated September 29, 2004, please amend the claims and specification of the above-captioned application as shown hereinbelow, and consider the following remarks. Moreover, this communication constitutes a petition for an extension of time and, in view of the enclosed fees of \$510, the deadline for response is extended three months to March 29, 2005. Applicants constitute a small entity.

**REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW**

Applicants hereby request a formal interview with Examiner Pechhold. Applicants believe that such an interview will serve to expedite prosecution of the present application, and to facilitate amendments to the claims in corresponding Divisional applications which applicants intend to file soon. Accordingly, applicants request the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel for applicants by telephone to arrange a formal interview to occur sometime in May, 2005.

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## **PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

Applicants believe the presently pending claims to be allowable. Nonetheless, in the event that Examiner Pechhold does not immediately find the claims to be allowable, the formal interview is requested in order to expedite prosecution of the present application.

## **BACKGROUND**

The present invention comprises a series of embodiments of void-maintaining drainage laminates each of which has a void-maintaining layer. All of the embodiments of the present invention are constructed and arranged to withstand high loads, such as the loads encountered beneath the heavy overburdens typically found in the design and construction of highways, buildings and other large structures. In one salient aspect, to achieve the claimed void-maintaining capacities, the void-maintaining cores of the embodiments of the present invention are provided with compression elements ("CE's") which are constructed and arranged to withstand great loads over a long period of time.

As is further elucidated below, the CE's of the present invention are functionally different, and thus patentably different, from the "projections" disclosed in the cited Freese reference. Because of this, Freese cannot properly be applicable in the present case.